

HO WAH CHAN, RICE PLANTER, CELEBRATES 61ST BIRTHDAY

Gives Great Feast at His Home in Waipio, to 120 Clansmen and Friends; Tells of His Arrival in Islands Thirty-six Years Ago, When Things Were Different

Waipio was the scene of a big celebration Sunday, for it was the sixty-first anniversary of the birth of a well-known Chinese rice planter, Ho Wah Chan, who for thirty-six years has made his home in the islands. According to an old-fashioned tradition which is common among the Chinese of all classes, the first year in every new decade of the birth is always more fittingly observed by a person who has attained the age of fifty-one, sixty-one or seventy-one. Therefore, Sunday's occasion was a memorable one, which may not be duplicated until the venerable gentleman reaches his seventy-first or his eighty-first anniversary.

Ho Wah Chan invited over one hundred and twenty guests to partake of his hospitality. Many of these were his clansmen from the Ho family. They began to leave the city as early as last Saturday afternoon in order to be present at the birthday feast. All the relatives and close friends within a radius of fifteen miles managed to get to the little farmhouse at Waipio to offer their congratulations.

"Koon-hee-chong-fook-chong-seu!" was the greeting, which, interpreted, means "long years of happiness." The guests were not disappointed, for they were treated to a rare twelve-course dinner, with birds' nest soup, sharks' fins, stewed ducks, chicken cutlets, fish balls, golden pork, fancy lobsters and other palatial dishes and delicacies. There was no band to entertain the host, but the afternoon was enlivened by the discharge of fifteen thousand firecrackers.

The host appeared robust and was in good humor throughout the day. He could not speak English, but his son, Sinf How, is an intelligent young man, eighteen years old, and educated in the public schools. It was a treat to hear the elder Ho relate of the good old days when he first came to

the islands. The story of the shipwreck which has never been published is especially interesting, because the name of a prominent Chinese in the person of Ho Fon of Bishop & Co. is involved.

"I came to the islands over thirty-five years ago with my nephew, Ho Fon, who was then a little bit of a chap," said Ho Wah Chan. "This was the day of the sailing vessels and schooners. Our ill-fated ship ran up against certain big rocks off the Molokai shores and was soon smashed. The water there was not very deep, but we managed to do the best we could until we were rescued twelve hours later by some Hawaiians in a little boat. Previous to our rescuing, I and my brother had our hands full in taking care of our little nephew. For over forty hours we had nothing to drink or eat, except some brown sugar. We surely leaped with joy when we finally reached Honolulu."

Ho Fon, verified the story and added, "I owe my life to my two uncles who were very kind to me. I can remember how they took relays in carrying me on their backs, similar to what my mother and grandma used to do."

Ho Wah will soon retire. He has toiled diligently for years. He intends to make a trip to his early boyhood home in China.

"I am glad that I have lived to see China transformed into a republic," he said. "This is the age for the young generations to do things. I shall not return to the islands. What is the use? My brothers, sisters, and relatives cannot come on account of the unjust exclusion law. I do not care to be subjected to the unusual amount of red tape should I return to the islands. I hope to be able to live to the day when no harsh restrictions will be imposed by any nation to retard the movement of the desirable classes."

CHICAGO GIRL LEADS FEARLESS WAR ON VICE AND GRAFTERS

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 20.—They call her the "Joan of Arc of West Hammond."

It sounds like a joke, but it isn't anything like that when she started to clean out the grafters.

No, no. It was no joke. Miss Virginia Brooks, a Chicago girl, who has dedicated her life to the uprooting of the Polish women—a little twenty-three-year-old girl—a girl with no previous training in politics, is this Joan of Arc.

Her father, on his death, left her \$30,000 worth of property in this Illinois town. She received a letter from the assessor of West Hammond, assuring her \$2000 for some vacant lots, and she scented graft. She had received information that all was not what it should be there. This helped to confirm her suspicions. It also gave her resolution.

Once a Gay Society Girl. Mind you, Virginia Brooks was at that time, a year and a half ago, a society girl—parties, music, interpretative dances and all that sort of thing. She turned her back on all frivolity and became a reformer. She and her mother closed up their house in Chicago and moved to a cottage in Hammond—a town with a voting population of 750, with 55 saloons and unspeakable vice.

The town was largely Polish. She set to work to learn the language. Finally, having mastered the tongue, she called a meeting of the people—the graft-ridden people who, almost entirely, occupied mortgage-covered homes. The Poles are an emotional, impulsive people. She stirred them in their own language. In the ensuing election, Miss Brooks won.

The surprised politicians, bestirred to action, tried to reverse the vote,

by which she won, but they couldn't muster the votes. The town was with Virginia Brooks. The women turned out to help her. They marched in her processions. They talked from the same platform with her. They weren't afraid to indulge in militant tactics. The politicians, in terror, fought in their last ditch. She won overwhelmingly. Here is how she describes her own campaign:

Used Power of Press.

"To attract attention to our idea of what government should be, we campaigned vigorously to arouse the people. We did this by publishing in a weekly newspaper, started for the purpose, exposures of graft we had discovered among the thieves and officials who were protecting the dive-keepers. We reproduced in this paper's columns contracts that were nothing but graft, and we even went to the extent of driving off contractors by force when they tried to put down inferior pavement."

"Another method that I used to arouse public attention and indignation was to read at mass meetings the names of all property-owners who had leased their places for saloons and resorts in West Hammond and in Hammond, Ind. It created a sensation at one woman's club, where I read it, and at some of whose members it struck very closely, but it all served to awaken the public conscience. People began to inquire why the police didn't clean them out, and gradually all classes, especially the more ignorant, whom we were having difficulty in arousing, comprehended the true situation."

The desperate dive-keepers not only threatened her with harm. They actually assaulted her, beat her and kicked her. But she had her teeth in the

IRWIN'S OLD PLACE SOLD

Three Separate Purchases at Rate of \$125 a Front Foot

In three separate sales the old homestead of William G. Irwin at Kapiolani Park, which he occupied before his great mansion nearby was built, has passed into the hands of new owners. The price of the land was at the rate of \$125 a front foot on the beach, the aggregate amount realized being about \$32,000.

Through the agency of Percy M. Pond two subdivisions of the property were purchased. Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Westervelt bought the portion next to George P. Castle's place, having 150 feet of frontage and containing the dwelling house for \$22,000. Miss Cross bought the adjoining or middle lot, with 120 feet of frontage for about \$15,000.

The third portion, adjoining the premises of General Davis, was bought by Mrs. David Center through the Henry Waterhouse Trust Co., Ltd. It has a frontage of 120 feet and the price was around \$15,000.

These sales indicate an advance in Waikiki beach property.

ABSINTH IS PROHIBITED

(Food-inspection decision 147 by United States Board of Food and Drug Inspection.)

It is generally recognized in countries which have had experience with the sale and consumption of absinth that this beverage is dangerous to health. Belgium, Switzerland, and Holland have forbidden its manufacture and sale, and importation; absinth is also condemned by the laws of Brazil and its importation forbidden.

The food and drugs act of June 30, 1906, section 11, forbids the importation of any food or drug which is "of a kind forbidden entry into, or forbidden to be sold or restricted in sale in the country in which it is made, or from which it is exported," and also of any food or drug which is "otherwise dangerous to the health of the people of the United States."

Importations of absinth into the United States, therefore, are prohibited, both because they come from countries which forbid or restrict its manufacture and sale, and because these products are injurious to the health of the people of the United States.

Section 7, paragraph 5, in the case of foods, of the food and drugs act, June 30, 1906, provides further that an article shall be deemed to be adulterated within the meaning of the act "if it contains any added poisonous or other added deleterious ingredient injurious to health."

The beverage commonly known as absinth is a manufactured product containing wormwood, or absinth (Artemisia absinthium), an added deleterious ingredient. The interstate shipment of this product is, therefore, prohibited under this provision of the food and drugs act.

The Secretary of Agriculture, therefore, will regard as adulterated under the food and drugs act absinth which, on and after October 1, 1912, is manufactured or offered for sale in the District of Columbia or the Territories, or shipped in interstate commerce or offered for importation into the United States.

Job and she didn't give up. "Warning to Dives! Twenty Days to Vacate."

That's the way she served notice on the corruptionists. They became frantic. Here is her own story of what followed:

"They threatened a variety of retaliation, and tried to embarrass the work by starting suits against me, but it only served to arouse the people more."

"For our part, we tried in every way to interest the courts and the prosecuting attorney, but we never could get an official to act against them. It seemed discouraging at times, and we even contemplated, in the event of ultimate defeat, to organize a rival town."

"No one knows how powerful such a ring organization can be until an effort is made to clean it out."

"However, the time came when every one was up and fighting and determined that West Hammond must be clean, courts or no courts."

"I told the people with all the emphasis I could command that they should rule, and, after studying over the situation, they, too, began to preach the same doctrine. We soon outnumbered the forces of the saloon and resort-keepers—as the good citizenship does in every community."

She Became Political Power. The result of it all was that she became a political power in West Hammond—did this little, bright-eyed, smiling girl who started out single-handed against the grafters. What she accomplished can best be told in her own words:

"I have saved for the Poles nearly \$21,000 on reductions of overcharged assessments. I have succeeded in ousting an old clique who for many years had been grafting on the school board, and being elected myself to the office of president. This means that I will introduce into the neglected school manual training, domestic science, free night school, free kindergarten, and a playground."

"I have established a settlement house in Hammond, Ind., right across the State line, where the boys and girls have night classes and where mothers who work can take their babies for care. There are some 32,000 Poles in this region; and the future looks to great achievement."

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IDAHO By GEORGE FITCH

Idaho consists of a number of hopeful but lonesome communities bound together by a state election. It is one of the largest states in area, but is so sparsely settled by railroad depots that when a statesman in a northern county wishes to visit his constituents in the southern part of the state, he has to change cars four times and borrow a right of way through two neighboring states to get there.

Thanks to the telegraph and the magazines, however, all Idahans speak the same dialect, eat the same kinds of breakfast food, and get mad at the same varieties of oppression by Wall street.

Idaho has 85,000 square, but by no means flat miles, and has 325,000 people, or one for each quarter section. However, over ten thousand of these people are crowded together in Boise, the capital and metropolis, and other thousands have massed together in Pocatello, Lewiston, Coeur d'Alene and other BB towns with howitzer voices. Thus a great many square miles in Idaho are deprived of their rightful four inhabitants and it is possible to wander for hundreds of miles in the central part of the state without meeting a candidate with a petition or a man who wants to borrow a match.

Idaho is the last stopping place on transcontinental trains before the recall is reached. It is 400 miles long and two miles high in spots and most of it is only rained on biennially. In its virgin state it is so dry that even the telegraph poles have to be watered to keep them from wilting. However, irrigation is being applied in the valleys with much success and Idaho

land is being sold as far west as Illinois in large quantities.

Idaho has vast natural deposits of gold, lead, timber, jackrabbits, Mormons and waterfalls. The waterfalls work well in harness and the Mormons have boosted the census tremendously, but no use has as yet been



found for the jackrabbits, who are so intelligent that they can dig a young potato out of the sandy soil with one well-directed kick of a hind leg.

Until 1890 Idaho was a territory, with only a few scattering patriots, but it is now a flourishing state, which is growing rapidly and in loud tones. Most of its inhabitants go back east for old home week or college commencements, but the society of native-born Idahans is prospering and now has a chapter in almost every Idaho town.

NINE BILLIONS OF NEW WEALTH

Henry Clews of New York, in his special letter of August 17, has the following stimulating observations on the prodigious crops promised this season:

Nine Times The National Debt.

"This is pre-eminently a crop market. The West cannot be expected to quietly sit down and ignore the value of \$9,000,000,000 of new wealth produced from the soil in a single year; a sum equal to nine times the national debt. To the great agricultural sections of the Northwest this will prove an irresistible stimulus. Merchants and bankers and manufacturers alike are prepared for a good business season. Our railroad managers anticipate a heavy traffic and are distributing their equipment accordingly. A month hence we may expect to hear loud complaints of car shortage. Some time ago the railroads placed liberal orders for cars and locomotives, and a crush of freight seems inevitable when the crop movement Eastward reaches its height in September and October. Two or three months hence the Western lines are sure to report satisfactory gains in earnings. The railroads, however, will not benefit merely from the large crops, they will benefit incidentally quite as much by what the crops are turned into (meat, etc.), by the general stimulus to manufacturing industries and by the vast quantities of manufactured products sent back from the East in return for the golden harvest and raw products of the West. No serious injury can now happen to corn, for only the northern section of the crop is in danger of early frosts. Cotton is more exposed to this risk than any other crop, and the next two or three weeks may prove a critical period. But at present there is no cause for anxiety and the outlook is for a very large yield of 14,000,000 bales or over."

Mr. Clews gives reasons in detail for saying that the industrial outlook

is very satisfactory. He then discusses the railroading situation, mentioning the necessity of large outlays for construction and reconstruction purposes. From which he goes on to say: **Effect of Politics.**

"General trade prospects are encouraging for the reasons stated above. Larger offerings of commercial paper testify that merchants are well prepared for increased activity. The opinion as to the effect of politics on business is divided. The majority believe, and with reason, that politics have done their worst and have been amply discounted. Western business men are certainly paying little attention to politics. In the East, however, the situation is somewhat different. Big financial interests do not like the attitude of labor and the Government towards the railroads. Two months ago hot tariff discussion are closely ahead of us. Many of our great industries would be seriously disturbed by any radical revision of the tariff, which will be the main issue during the campaign this fall. Such a disturbance would be reflected in financial quarters. While the West is controlled chiefly by local influences, the East is unavoidably controlled by national and international interests; hence it is sluggishness in responding to Western optimism. After all, it is possible that too much attention is being paid to political considerations. Congress will shortly adjourn. Then the opportunity for legislative disturbance will be over, and after the November election the necessities for political fireworks will be less urgent. Considering this fact, and that radicalism, though not dead, is declining in all parts of the country, there is reason for taking more hopeful views regarding national political affairs."

According to a fashion paper, women's stockings made from real gold thread and silk are to be the proper thing abroad this autumn. They come from Vienna and cost \$25 a pair.

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